Baldhill Dam /
Lake Ashtabula
North Dakota
US Army Corps
D 19
D 103.2:

BALDHILL DAM AND LAKE ASHTABULA

Lake Ashtabula, created by the completion of Baldhill Dam in 1952 provides the East-Central part of North Dakota with excellent year a-round recreation opportunities. The lake is 27 miles long, having absorbed into its length about 42 miles of riverbed from the old winding Sheyenne River. The Corps of Engineers invites you to use and enjoy the Lake Ashtabula / Baldhill Dam project and its eight developed recreation areas.

The main route to Lake Ashtabula and Baldhill Dam recreation sites is by Interstate 94, to Valley City Exit #71 and 9 miles northwest of ValleyCity, (58 miles west of Fargo). Signs direct you to the dam and Mel Rieman Recreation Area along this route. The recreation sites are also accessible from other directions by state, county and township roads.

Lake Ashtabula is ideally suited for many year-round recreational activities. Camping, boating, picnicking, swimming, water skiing and fishing are very popular summertime activities. Ice fishing, snow mobiling, snowshoeing and cross country skiing are among the winter attractions. Lake Ashtabula has fast become a favorite recreation spot for the enjoyment of as many as 375,000 visitors each year.

The eight developed recreation areas on the Lake Ashtabula / Baldhill Dam Project are operated and maintained by the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers. The sites are known as: Mel Rieman, Sundstrom's Landing, Eggert's Landing, East and West Ashtabula Crossings, Old Highway 26, Katie Olson's Landing and Keyes Crossing Recreation Areas. Each of these sites is unique in its own way and offers a variety of activities. Full operation begins the first of May and runs through the last weekend in September.

WILDLIFE

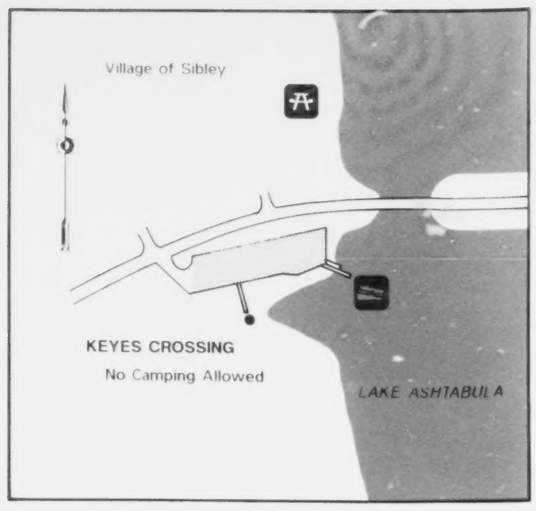
The lands and waters of the Lake Ashtabula area abound with a variety of wildlife. White-tailed deer, red fox, ground squirrel, jackrabbit and cottontail, mink, woodchuck, beaver and raccoon may be observed in the fields, near roadways and around the lakeshore. Since the lake is in the path of the central flyway, a great number of ducks and geese inhabit the area in the fall, while the white pelican is the most obvious summer visitor.

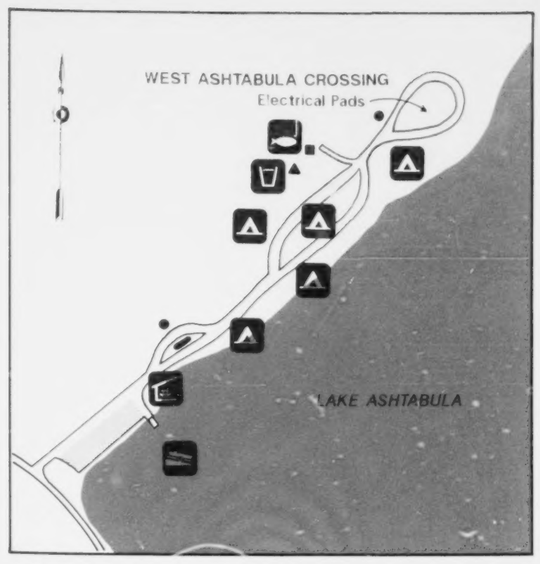
Much of the land acquired by the government for the project is managed for wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uses the land immediately below the dam for fish hatchery ponds. Visitors are welcome at the National Fish Hatchery located three miles north of Valley City.

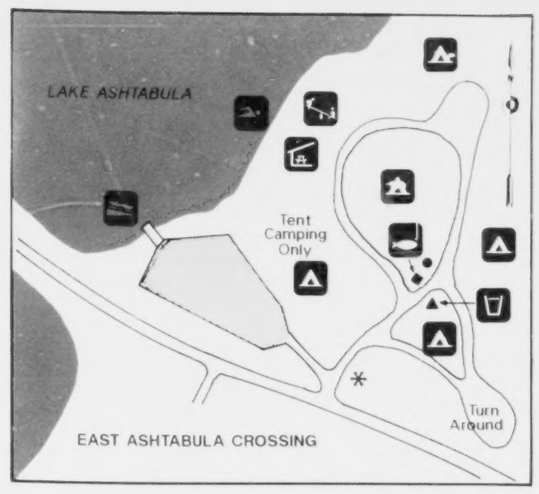
Of the 7,816 acres of the Lake Ashtabula Project, 1,106 acres are allocated for fish and wildlife management. Part of this is woodland and shrub land. This is used by wildlife for winter cover and as a food source. Wetlands also make up a part of the project lands. They are inhabited by many game and nongame species. The Corps of Engineers is implementing an active wildlife management program in these areas.

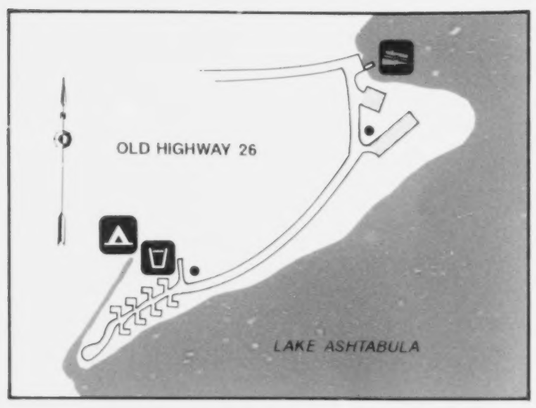
Lake Ashtabula is a productive fishery, making recreational fishing a popular activity. Some of the more commonly caught fish species include yellow perch, walleye, white bass, northern pike, and black bullheads. In order to prevent the introduction of carp into the lake, it is unlawful to use live minnows for bait when fishing Lake Ashtabula.

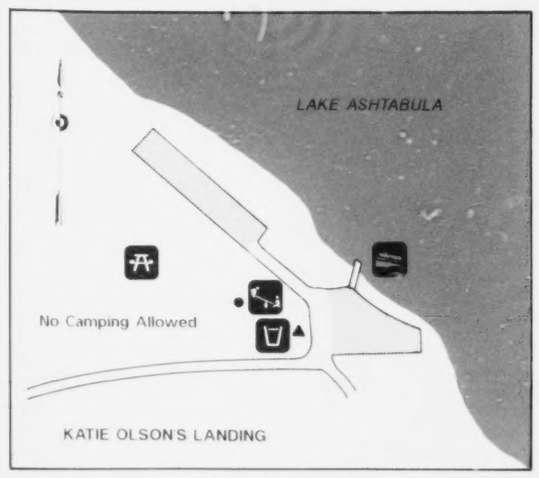
Lake Ashtabula is a heavily used recreation spot and should be enjoyed by all. To insure everyone's enjoyment, please observe common sense safety precautions while you recreate. Alcohol consumption contributes significantly in most accident occurrences. So remember, whether boating, swimming, fishing, driving your vehicle or participating in any of the many exciting activities at Lake Ashtabula, don't let alcohol become a cause for an accident.

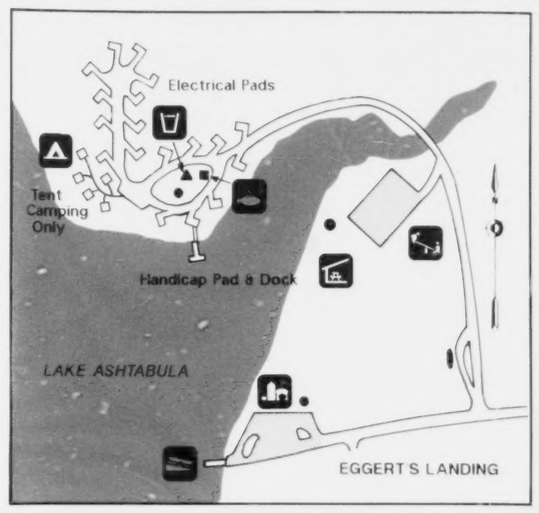


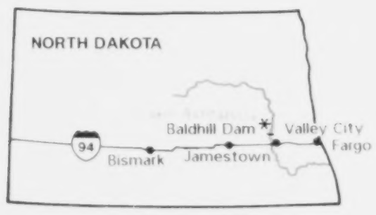






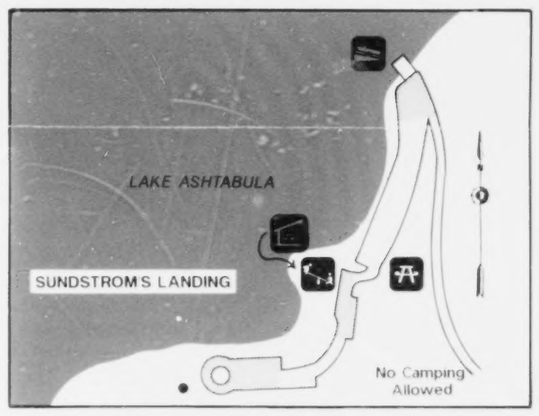


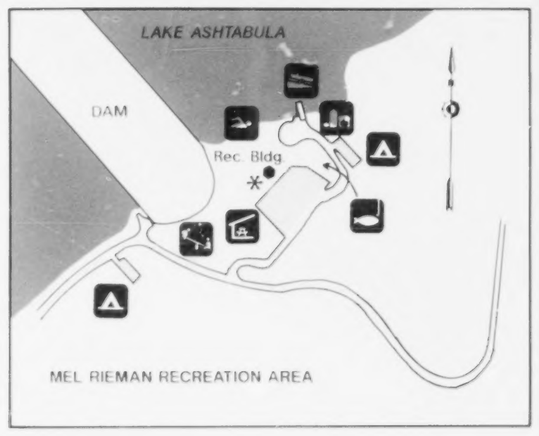


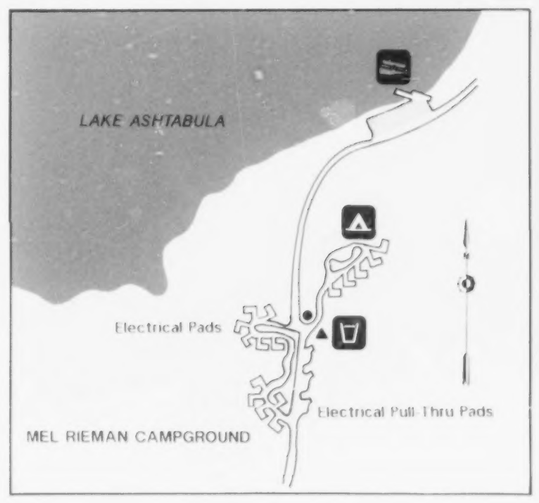


RECREATION AREAS

Three separate photographs make up this false color composite of Lake Ashtabula. The Corps of Engineers often uses aerial photographs such as this one when studying vegetation of specific areas. One inch on the photograph represents one mile.
KEYES CROSSING
26
27
OLD HWY. 26
WEST ASHTABULA CROSSING
EAST ASHTABULA CROSSING
12
6
BALDHILL CREEK
11
EGGERT'S LANDING
KATIE OLSON'S LANDING
To N.D. (HWY 1) 5 Miles
10
SUNDSTROM'S LANDING
19
BALDHILL DAM
MEL RIEMAN RECREATION AREA
To Valley City 17 Miles
* The most extremely paved routes between the recreation areas are shown as white.



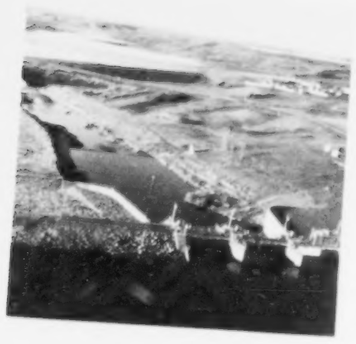




LEGEND

- Showers / Flush Toilets
- Toilets
- Swimming Beach
- Playground
- Concession
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Campground
- Boat Ramp/Dock
- Fish Cleaning House
- Drinking Water
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Parking Areas

	MEL RIEMAN RECREATION AREA	MEL RIEMAN CAMPGROUND	SUNDSTROM'S LANDING	EGGERT'S LANDING	EAST ASHTABULA CROSSING	WEST ASHTABULA CROSSING	OLD HIGHWAY 26	KEYES CROSSING	KATIE OLSON'S LANDING
Showers Flush Toilets	●				●				
Vault Toilets		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Change Room	●								
Swimming Beach	●				●				
Volleyball Horseshoes	●								
Playground Equipment	●		●	●	●				●
Concessions	●			●	●	●		●	
Public Pay Phone	●			●	●	●		●	
Picnic Tables Fireplaces	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Camp Pads Tent Only	●			●	●				
Camp Pads Trailer		●		●	●	●	●		
Electric Hookups		●		●	●	●			
Handicap Pad				●					
Boat Ramp Courtesy Dock		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fish Cleaning House	●			●	●				
Sanitary Dump Station				●					
Drinking Water	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fee Collected		●		●	●	●			



HISTORY

Baldhill Dam was constructed to reduce flood damage, primarily at Valley City, and to alleviate water shortages in municipal and rural areas along the Sheyenne River and Red River of the North. The dam was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 and was placed in operation in the spring of 1950. It has helped prevent millions of dollars in flood damages throughout the subsequent years and has provided sufficient streamflow in the Sheyenne and Red Rivers during dry periods to meet water supply needs of municipalities and rural areas downstream.

Floods in the Sheyenne River basin usually result from snowmelt, and flood levels are frequently aggravated by ice jams.

The dam is a 1650-foot long compacted earth structure with concrete gravity control works 140-feet in length. Atop the control works are three 40-foot tainter gates. There are two 3-foot diameter conduits in the piers for low water control. The reservoir, Lake Ashtabula, has a capacity of 70,700 acre-feet at a normal pool level.

Holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports receive a fifty percent discount on camping fees. Information and Passports are available from a Ranger on duty. Additionally, many facilities are suited for handicapped use, including a camp site at Eggert's Landing that features a fishing dock, concrete camp pad, grill, electric hookup, and a picnic table all designed for wheelchair use.